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The High School NEWSLETTER

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The High School of the International School of Siem Reap: September 7th, 2016

Election of the High School Council

Year 7
 Kalyane-Gabrielle Dumas
 Khem Phal Dawin

Year 8
 Felix Wijnberg
 Melissa You

Year 9
 Niwatey San
 Sokcheathong Yem



THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL

Elected Councillors 2016 – 17

Year 10
 Philos Himm
 Lucas Purnell (SECRETARY)

Year 11
 Heerim Han
 Nadia Tracey (VICE-CHAIR)

Years 12 & 13
 Seila Huot; Phalla Teav;
 Vichea Balch (CHAIR)



The members of the High School Council were sworn in before the whole School on Friday, 9th September at mid-day; during the ceremony the students were presented by the Directors with certificates and badges of membership. In responding to the pledge the Councillors agreed to serve the students responsibly and to use their debating, leadership, planning and communication skills to benefit every member of the School. The first Council meeting was a working lunch on Wednesday, 14th September and our Year 11 Councillors visited an NGO on September 12th in connection with which the Council will be developing a project.

The students took the election process very seriously, and there were some excellent speeches by the candidates. The Councillors subsequently elected Vichea Balch (Y13) as the Chair of the Council, Nadia Tracey (Y11) as the Vice Chair, and Lucas Purnell (Y10) as the Secretary.

Meeting with Parents and Students: September 9th

The meeting with parents and students took place on Friday, September 9th between 5pm and 7pm. The meeting was extremely well attended, and the Principal was very encouraged by the large number of students who joined their parents; they are obviously keen to know what developments and changes will be taking place. The evening began with a presentation by the Principal who outlined a number of projects in the areas of the curriculum, the timetable and extra-curricular activities. This was followed by a buffet, music and an informal gathering in the courtyard which was decorated for the occasion in a most welcoming way. The Principal expresses his gratitude to Ms Srey Rath, Ms Srey Den, Ms Nimol and all others who worked so diligently to make the evening a success.



Hydroponic Farming: first project for the Council

Many thanks to Mr Greg for his initiative in organising the visit to the Trailblazer Foundation. This was initially targeted at the Primary School. It was clear, however, that this NGO was a very suitable project for the newly elected High School Council. Consequently, our Y11 Councillors (Nadia and Anna) accompanied the party and compiled a report that was presented to Council on September 14th. Their report is reproduced below:



Our school has started a new fundraising project. On September 11th, the Year 11 High School Councillors and Year 6 went on a trip to look at an NGO called "Trailblazer Foundation", to see the process of the Biosand water filter system and how hydroponic farming works. Our project will focus on hydroponic farming; we will build a hydroponic system and grow crops to harvest and sell vegetables to raise money for charity. This will involve any student who wants to take part in the project allowing students to socialise and participate in teamwork projects.



The Biosand filter removes organisms responsible for diseases spread by water, such as cholera, typhoid fever, and amoebic dysentery. The filter also strains out particles causing cloudiness, and much of the organic matter responsible for taste, colour and odour.



Hydroponics is a subset of hydroculture and this involves a technique of growing plants in water containing dissolved nutrients, without soil. This system can be carried out saving much water and also with a very low budget.

Students have undertaken research, and this project will be carried out very soon. The right materials will be found, marketing research will be done to find out the reasonable cost of vegetables, and marketing strategies will be planned.



Since this is the first trial of its kind, we will start off small and see how our system works. It will take some time to see the progress, but definitely further improvements will be made along the way, with ideas and contributions by teachers and students. This project is not only for groups; individuals can also take part and have fun while raising money for charity.

Year 7 cinema trip

To celebrate 100 years of one of the world's greatest story tellers - Roald Dahl, Year 7 have been studying a collection of his short stories. This week we painted our favourite Roald Dahl characters in the style of Quentin Blake, painted our very own dream jars and filled them with our dreams and then we finished our creative week with a trip to the cinema to see *The BFG*. We had a glorumptious time watching the film and celebrating what a magical imagination Roald Dahl has. The toffee popcorn went down a treat too. Well done, Year 7. A wonderful afternoon had by all. (HH)



School Library

Given our location, it is not easy to find a wide range of suitable English fiction and non-fiction works in order for our library to grow. Nevertheless, the Principal and Mr Wim are currently building a far larger collection of works than is currently available; we have, for example, recently downloaded a considerable number of classics of English fiction that are out of copyright and which will be printed, bound and added to the library. Although this process will take time, we can look forward to a far more diverse range of fiction and non-fiction. We would of course welcome any donations of English books that are suitable for our school's age groups.

Literature studies in Year 9



All our students should be aware of at least some of the classics of English literature and, to that end, the Principal will be teaching Year 9 the George Orwell allegorical novella Animal Farm which is a standard study text in most UK schools at Key Stage Three. The students will be listening to the audio-book, watching the acclaimed cartoon version of the work, studying the text and the vocabulary in depth with the aid of specially prepared workbooks, and learning about the historical events and figures to which the work refers. The Principal will also recount his personal experiences of studying, living and working in the country upon which the story of Animal Farm is based.

Library week

Our High School students will be assisting the Primary School during International School Library Week between 17th and 21st October. Planning is underway, but our students will certainly be involved in reading stories and poems to the younger children in the School.

Projectors

The School has purchased three additional projectors to supplement the existing audio-visual resources. Our teachers make extensive use of this technology in presenting lessons and showing video footage; that there is even greater access to this valuable resource is most welcome.

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.

Margaret Mead

Visit to ISSR by Austin Heights International School, Malaysia



Austin Heights International School in Johor, Southern Malaysia is the Principal's former school prior to his relocation to Siem Reap. We will be welcoming 30 students and 4 staff on Thursday, October 6th from 1pm to 3pm. The High School Council will be assisting in organising the formal welcome (led by the Chair of Council, Vichea Balch Y13), and two of our Councillors (Felix Wijnberg Y8 and Phalla Teav Y13) have been given the task of finding the best football players in Years 7-9 and Years 10-13 respectively who will work with Mr Rob in preparation for friendly matches between the two schools.

The schedule is as follows:

- Meeting with the Directors, the Principals of the Primary and the High Schools, and the High School Councillors
- Formal welcome and speeches by the Principal of the High School and the Chair of Council
- Exchange of gifts
- Choral Performance by ISSR Primary class
- Presentation and discussion with the High School Principal on charitable work in Cambodia
- Buffet and socialising between the two schools
- Football (two matches with KS3 and KS4 teams)

We hope that this will be the beginning of a long association with Austin Heights School.

The School at Work: remembering 9/11

"Global citizenship" is a concept supported by many international schools, one aspect of this being that students should be aware of events that have had major impact upon our world. One such event was undoubtedly the terrible attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York on September 11th, 2001.



Students have been learning about the events of 9/11 as well as the aftermath. During lessons, students analysed various media sources and constructed a time line to show their understanding of what happened on this infamous day. Through embedding cross-curricular links with English, students also had an opportunity to read some poetry on the subject matter by Simon Armitage. (MEJ)

The School at Work: Year 8 Art



Plans are underway to scan the students' artwork, convert the work into large waterproof canvasses in order to create displays along the walls of the courtyard. This method of presentation will allow work to be changed on a regular basis.

The School at Work: Year 9 French / Year 11 IGCSE French



We are delighted with the progress being made by our students of French at all levels. Year 11 spend part of their lessons studying an intensive revision programme in preparation for their IGCSE examinations, and Mr Greg has been using the latest technology in recording and filming dialogues and reports made by the students entirely in French.

Students' work: Mandarin Chinese Year 7 and Year 8



School Vacation

Parents are reminded that, during the Pchum Ben festival, the School will be closed from Monday, September 26th until Friday 30th September inclusive. School will resume on Monday, October 3rd.

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